ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

In large computer application environments supporting secure enterprise applications, it is often necessary to distribute the environment among multiple systems in diverse locations, and yet share and maintain a set of keys and other sensitive information securely. This invention describes a method to accomplish this, by positioning in each remote site a trusted local agent, and establishing a secure and authenticated communications link between this remote agent and the master system. This remote agent limits the distribution of sensitive information to authorized applications, thus enforcing the security policy of the enterprise.